



# *The Old Ironsides Report*



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## Unit's, PA's care helps Iraqi boy walk again

By Sgt. Mark S. Rickert, 372nd MPAD

Second in a series

BAGHDAD, Iraq – War approached and Ali Saffah Sr. feared for his children's safety. So he packed up his car, and drove his family to his sister's house, just outside Baghdad. Here he hoped his family would be safe.

They found peace here for a while, but on March 29, all that changed when a missile dropped just down the road, only a few meters from where Suffah's 10-year-old son, Ali Suffah Jr., was playing.

The blast tore through the neighborhood, turning the calm evening into a fury of shrapnel and fire. After a desperate search, the Saffah family found the boy lying in a heap of rubble.

From the explosion, Ali Saffah Jr. nearly lost both legs and his right arm. The Saffah family rushed him to a hospital, where medics said he might not make it through the night, much less walk again.

Ali Saffah Jr. is indeed walking again, thanks to the support and concern of coalition forces, who came to the boy's aid after his parents turned there for help.

1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a physician's assistant with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, is one of the major support providers toward the child's progress.

Ali Saffah Sr. turned to the coalition forces when the Baghdad hospital that cared for his son could no longer help, due to the overwhelming number of patients.

"The hospital could only keep patients for seven days," said Ali Saffah Sr. "We needed more help. We had very little medical supplies, and we were running out. So we took the baby to the Army for help."

The coalition forces were quick to respond to the child's needs. At this time, medics with the 3rd Infantry Division took an interest with the boy and provided medical attention and supplies. The physicians became close with the family, but their time in Baghdad was drawing to an end. The 3rd Infantry Division was going home.

Before leaving Baghdad, the physicians with the 3rd Infantry Division introduced Davila to the Saffah family. Davila had just arrived with the 2-3 FA, and the physicians asked Davila if he would continue to care for the boy after they left. When Davila met with the family, he quickly obliged to help.

"I was very interested in helping the kid," said Davila. "It was the humanitarian thing to do."

Now, after months of support and checking with the family on a regular basis, while helping with medical supplies, medicine, and other necessities, Davila has the pleasure of seeing the boy walk.

"It is rewarding to help him," said Davila. "I saw him today—walking, smiling—that's rewarding."

The younger Saffah's recovery has been painful, and he has met with many hurdles. Finishing school posed one such hurdle.



**1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a physician's assistant with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, performs a physical exam on Ali Saffah Jr., checking for range of muscular movement.**

In order for Ali Saffah Jr. to finish the semester, he had to complete a final exam, but this would require the boy's presence. Ali's legs were still healing, however, he couldn't walk. Davila wanted to help, and he worked with another officer to get the boy a walker.

"We went to a shop that sold medical supplies, and a soldier bought the walker, using money from his own pocket. The family was excited and extremely thankful."

"Davila is a very good help," said Saffah Sr. "He brings medical supplies; he brought a walker so my son could walk; he even brings candy. Each time we see Davila, he asks if he can get us anything."

Davila's kindness has also promoted positive feelings within the community there. Saffah Sr. says the neighborhood is happy knowing that the Army is taking care of the citizens.

"The neighborhood knows what the Army has done," Saffah Sr. said. "And they are very happy when the Army takes care of the citizens. They say, 'look how the U.S. Army is caring for the children better than Saddam did.'"

## NEWS

### **Suicide Blast in Northern Israel Kills 19**

HAIFA, Israel (AP) - A Palestinian woman blew herself up in a crowded seaside restaurant at lunchtime Saturday, killing 19 people including three children. It was one of the deadliest attacks in the past three years, prompting new calls for Yasser Arafat's expulsion. About 40 people were wounded in the attack on the Maxim Restaurant, co-owned by Arabs and Jews in the Mediterranean port of Haifa, an ethnically mixed and tolerant city but also a frequent target for suicide attackers - perhaps because they can easily blend in. Both Arabs and Jews were at the restaurant at the time.

### **Leaders Begin Talks Over EU Constitution**

ROME (AP) - European Union leaders vowed Saturday not to rip apart the delicately negotiated draft for their new constitution as they launched final talks to address numerous demands for changes in the document. In a joint statement, leaders from the 15 EU nations and the 10 that are set to join the club next May, said the constitution "represents a fundamental step" in making the EU work better.

### **Tiger Attacks Las Vegas Magician Roy Horn**

LAS VEGAS (AP) - A trained tiger attacked magician Roy Horn of the duo Siegfried & Roy during a performance, biting his neck and dragging him off stage just feet from the audience. Horn's manager said Saturday the illusionist underwent surgery and was in critical condition. People attending the show Friday night at The Mirage hotel-casino said the white tiger lunged at Horn shortly after he led it on stage, and that he tried to beat the animal off with a microphone.

### **Chaplain's Thought for the Day:** **I've Failed**

Notice the difference between what happens when a man says to himself, I have failed three times, and what happens when he says, I'm a failure.

S. I. Hayakawa

What happens to us when we call ourselves names like "failure" or "dummy"? We feel we're no good and never will be. We want to stop trying because we think we'll flub up again.

But what if we begin to use different words to describe the same results? It won't change the results, but it will change us. And it will change the way we see ourselves and our actions.

Just by changing the words we use we can feel better about ourselves. Saying, "I've failed three times," means we'll try again and again and again until we succeed. It means we know God doesn't make any failures or dummies. It means God is always with us, loving us and helping us, even when trying seems difficult.

## **IN OTHER NEWS...**

### **Bear returns to Letterman's home**

CHOTEAU, Mont. — The black bear that feasted in the kitchen of David Letterman's Choteau-area ranch house — even swilling a bottle of whiskey — returned once too often.

The 300-pound male bear was trapped on Letterman's front porch during its third visit, said Mike Madel, a grizzly management specialist with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Wildlife biologists released the bear after capturing it Sunday in the Flathead National Forest just south of Glacier National Park.

That's about 50 miles from Letterman's ranch, across some of the most rugged country in Montana, Madel said. Biologists hope it will den up before it can return.

### **Limbaugh Says He's Amazed at Controversy**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- Rush Limbaugh told his radio audience Friday that he is amazed at the controversy over his comments about a black quarterback, but did not comment on reports that he's being investigated for illegally buying prescription drugs.

The conservative commentator gave up his job as an ESPN sports analyst after saying Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb was overrated because the media wanted to see a black quarterback succeed.

"It's amazing to me that this is a controversy at all. Had what I said been said by anybody else ... it wouldn't have even gotten noticed," he said Friday.

He made the comment about McNabb on ESPN's "Sunday NFL Countdown."

"It took two days for there to be any reaction. There wasn't any reaction to it even on the ESPN set," said Limbaugh, who says he has gotten thousands of supportive e-mails and phone calls.

Law enforcement sources in Florida confirmed to the AP Thursday that Limbaugh is being investigated for illegally buying prescription drugs.











































"I don't yet know what I'm dealing with there, folks," Limbaugh said. "I don't want to deal with hypotheticals, and I don't want to respond to what's in the press."

Limbaugh resigned his ESPN position Wednesday and said Thursday that he was leaving so the sports network's employees would be spared the uproar over his comments.

### **Top 5 albums for Oct. 3**

| <b>This Week</b> | <b>Title</b>   |
|------------------|--|
| <b>1</b>         | <b><i>Speakerboxxx/The Love Below</i></b><br>OutKast               |
| <b>2</b>         | <b><i>Some Devil</i></b><br>Dave Matthews                          |
| <b>3</b>         | <b><i>Results May Vary</i></b><br>Limp Bizkit                      |
| <b>4</b>         | <b><i>The R. in R&amp;B Collection: Volume One</i></b><br>R. Kelly |
| <b>5</b>         | <b><i>Cheers</i></b><br>Obie Trice                                 |

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|   |                        |    |   |                   |    |
|---|------------------------|----|---|-------------------|----|
|    | AIR FORCE              | 25 |    | VIRGINIA TECH (4) | 48 |
|    | NAVY                   | 28 |    | RUTGERS           | 22 |
|    | VMI                    | 28 |    | MINNESOTA (21)    | 42 |
|    | LIBERTY                | 31 |    | NORTHWESTERN      | 17 |
|    | INDIANA                | 3  |    | OLE MISS          | 20 |
|    | MICHIGAN ST. (25)      | 31 |    | FLORIDA (24)      | 17 |
|    | OLE MISS               | 20 |    | TROY ST.          | 0  |
|    | FLORIDA (24)           | 17 |    | NEBRASKA (12)     | 30 |
|    | WEST VIRGINIA          | 20 |    | OREGON (19)       | 13 |
|   | MIAMI (FL) (2)         | 22 |   | UTAH              | 17 |
|  | SOUTHERN CAL (10)      | 37 |  | KANSAS ST. (16)   | 20 |
|  | ARIZONA ST.            | 17 |  | TEXAS (13)        | 24 |
|  | ILLINOIS               | 10 |  | ARIZONA           | 7  |
|  | PURDUE (22)            | 43 |  | WASH. ST. (14)    | 30 |
|  | MICHIGAN (9)           | 27 |  | ALABAMA           | 23 |
|  | IOWA (23)              | 30 |  | GEORGIA (11)      | 37 |
|  | WASHINGTON (18)        | 16 |  | ARMY              | 0  |
|  | UCLA                   | 46 |  | TCU (20)          | 27 |
|  | OKLAHOMA (1)           | 53 |  | TENNESSEE (7)     | 21 |
|  | IOWA ST.               | 7  |  | AUBURN            | 28 |
|  | OHIO                   | 23 |   |                   |    |
|  | NORTHERN ILLINOIS (17) | 30 |   |                   |    |